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MINUTES OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

18 May 1956

Present

Members: John Lacey, State  
Maj. Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Consultants:

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1. The minutes of the 70th meeting were approved with the following emendations:

Delete "suggested" in the third paragraph on page 3.

Page 2, paragraph 7: In item C of Tab B Navy would like to see "shipbuilding" added, and in item F would like to stress "inland waterways" and "coastal shipping."

Page 2, paragraph 8: Add "and civil aviation."

2. State's comments on the Communist Far East

Mr. Lacey stated that an extremely large portion of State's basic information is derived from radio monitored materials and Communist press releases, and, in addition to that, some documentary materials which in one way or another come into their hands and are translated. Without those kinds of information State would have little basic intelligence information on the Communist Far East. Mr. Lacey added that there is a particular need for this kind of information, and to a very large extent this subcommittee came into being because of a particularly acute need throughout the IAC for documentary materials on the Communist Far East. Mr. Lacey noted that he and the Chairman, particularly since 1950, have had considerable relations concerning this problem and he thought, as against

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the time of establishment of this subcommittee we were in amazingly good shape. He also believed that we were in particular good shape insofar as Communist China is concerned. Mr. Lacey said that since 1950 the Hong Kong Press Monitoring Service (HKPMS) has been doing a splendid job in providing State with day-to-day coverage of the Communist press. Regarding FDD Mr. Lacey believed they have done a splendid job, largely in response to the work of this subcommittee, in the manner in which the program has been organized. FDD and the HKPMS, despite little formal effort to coordinate the two, have now achieved a kind of complementary role in which State observes a minimum of duplication, and where duplication does exist it is desirable and understandable. State looks to the coverage of the HKPMS as the basis for getting the press screened but would like to see more of the periodicals screened. FDD more and more has come to function as a research support outfit which can a) handle the classified documents and b) direct its operations more towards basic intelligence requirements. FDD's performance with respect to northern Vietnam as far as State is concerned has been very gratifying. Even the rather rapid turnover of personnel and the loss of good people has not affected operations and service to State. Mr. Lacey wanted to give his personal acknowledgment to [redacted] of FDD for his willing and able service to State on a number of occasions. On the Korean situation State had hoped somehow that more Korean material would become available so more coverage could be made. On Tab B, in general terms, State would ~~not~~ endorse the proposed expansion of coverage on Korea or North Vietnam. State felt strongly that they would much rather see expansion with respect to Communist China. Mr. Lacey added that State would like the addition of one or two translators to the HKPMS, thus enabling it to cover more the periodicals and added that this would be of primary benefit as a whole and could be accomplished with a minimum of expenditure.

At this point Mr. Lacey queried the Chairman on whether we were still having each of these areas prefaced by a statement on the over-all facilities.

The Chairman remarked that as yet we have not drafted an introduction to China.

Mr. Lacey proposed to the Subcommittee that when the introduction to China is drafted that we take into consideration the HKPMS and its relationship to FDD making clear at least two things: 1) statement of the complementary role of the HKPMS; and 2) in connection with the last sentence, mention that the HKPMS operation should be continued. If this Subcommittee sees fit he would like to have particularly emphasized the general utility which the HKPMS operation has provided to all the IAC.

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The Chairman stated that we will make as strong a statement as the committee can endorse and will take Mr. Lacey's suggestions into account in drawing up the summary statement.

Mr. Lacey stated that as far as State is concerned they would like to see among the top priority political and sociological topics coverage on the minorities, and if needed they would be happy to substitute FDD's present coverage on the government and party organizations on the national level, but not on the provincial level. Referring to items under China in Tab A; with respect to item 6, while this coverage has been useful State would much prefer that there is coverage of the theoretical party journals, such as "Hseuh-hsi," and other theoretical tracts in lieu of item 6. Mr. Lacey wondered about the biographic effort on China.

The Chairman replied that not too much effort has been devoted toward a specific project in the biographic line heretofore, but with increasing emphasis and with separate interests developing, a new China biographic project was in process, which will call for a little more directed effort. The point here is to get at precisely what is needed. BI/State has an enormous file on China and the initial thought was that possibly we should organize this along the lines of the USSR biographic. On further reviews it didn't warrant the tremendous timeliness that goes into the USSR effort.

Mr. Lacey mentioned that as far as State's requirements are concerned, he would agree that there would be a need for biographic information for the next year. A great deal of biographic information is available which has not been tapped at all. Biographic coverage on Vietnam could be done on the basis of available material.

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██████████ pointed out that available material is strewn throughout the literature and not "packaged" in one or two journals as is some types of information.

Regarding item 20 in Tab A, Mr. Lacey felt that much more emphasis was needed than has been received to date, and similarly item 23 needed more emphasis, particularly in the speed-up of collectivization and the formation of cooperatives, all of which could be achieved at the sacrifice of other topics of lesser priority. This was not a proposal for more emphasis than can be handled within the existing manpower. There were no specific comments on Tab A as far as Vietnam and Korea are concerned, except to stress particular value with regard to documentary items of the sort listed in item 1 under Vietnam. The best material was found in translations of party directives, training manuals and the like. As far as State is concerned, as long as FDD's staff is as short as it is now, State would like to see its primary effort in that direction. No comment on Communist

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Korea. With respect to Tab B as far as Communist China is concerned, if we were going to select some topics for expansion State would be particularly interested in item D on Cooperatives and item G in texts of directives and regulations, and political theory and ideology, plus material on the national minorities and autonomous governments.

The Chairman asked [REDACTED] for comments on Mr. Lacey's statement on the proposed changes in Tab A on China, item A: "minorities for government and party organizations on the national level" since CIA is the main Agency other than State interested in this particular aspect.

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[REDACTED] answered that he thought minorities would be included since it could actually be covered by the same people. He did not think it would cut into the present reporting very much.

The Chairman summed up the rearrangement of the first five categories under China, item A, Tab A:

1. Government organization on the national level
2. Communist Party on the provincial level
3. Minorities
4. Relationship with other Asian Communist Parties
5. Sino-Soviet relations

The Chairman then asked if there were any feelings about item 6.

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[REDACTED] thought there was a good deal of interest in "Hseuh-hsi."

It was agreed by the members to substitute coverage of "Hsueh-hsi" and other theoretical journals for item 6.

### 3. Free World: Southeast Asia

Mr. Lacey stated that State's general comments concern the deplorable lack of coverage of Burma, and Thailand to a lesser extent, and the lack on Cambodia and Laos. Fortunately, USIS has been providing pretty good press monitoring service on Cambodia and Laos which would be adequate for awhile. However, the continued absence of a man on Burma is deplorable. In the case of Indonesia, State's people recently conferred with [REDACTED] of FDD and he was hopeful that some of the proposals made to him would be acted upon.

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The Chairman asked State if coverage of the Philippines was of any value.

Mr. Lacey replied that it was of some value and that it was his understanding that there was some move to reduce the FBIS coverage on Vietnam.

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The Chairman remarked that he was uncertain but believed it is planned to be continued and that FDD had concentrated their manpower on North Vietnam.

Mr. Lacey concluded that they were happy with the present general topics and manpower allocation with the exception of Burma.

Maj. Neumann reported there was almost no response on areas regarding Southeast Asia, due to the heavy concentration on the Soviet bloc. Air is well satisfied with the present program.

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[REDACTED] stated that CIA was not generally interested in the Philippines unless it has some tie in with the Communist Party. On Burma the English-language press is fairly good. No particular interest in domestic trade. Only a marginal interest on Latin America and propose that it be cut to one man. Interested in Communist influence either through political activities or economic penetration.

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[REDACTED] stated that NSA in general was well pleased with the program, particularly on the Near East. No comment on Southeast Asia. In Indonesia most of the items under economic of no particular interest. Little interest in sociological under Thailand and economic statistics on South Korea.

The Chairman hoped that we would finish the coverage of the Free World at the next meeting and noted his interest to cut down on any manpower on the Free World that was not needed on a priority basis and move it to the bloc.

At this point the Chairman distributed to the members the first issue of FDD's publication titled "Report on USSR Ministries," Summary No. 934.

Maj. Neumann posed the question of how we were going to handle unique requirements which cannot be foreseen and if there were other means of coping with this other than authorized overtime.

The Chairman explained that FDD tries to reserve about 20% of the manpower for what they call specific projects. Aside from special situations there are special projects which arise for which FDD tries to keep manpower in reserve. It was the understanding that in going over the program, that FDD would allow for 10 to 20% reserve for specific projects. Tab B represents things over and above that of a continuous exploitation nature for which additional manpower is needed.

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[REDACTED] thought it would be desirable to write in a justification of an increase for such emergencies as specific ad hoc projects in the program.

Air concurred in this.

The Chairman recalled that in the last recommended program, it was stated that 25% be reserved on specific projects and in the interval this was discovered to be too high. USSR seems to have less need for withholding manpower for specific projects than the rarer languages. In conclusion, he thought it would be a good idea in the write-up to indicate the approximate manpower that is required for specific projects.

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[REDACTED] was concerned about the present position of the Joint Press Reading Service (JPRS).

The Chairman answered that the British are proposing that the JPRS be dropped, provided the US does not oppose, by the end of the year. He imagined that each of the agencies will be receiving this information for comment. He went on to say that FDD's general comments were: 1) that it was not of great value due to the time-lag which is from two to three weeks; 2) also the general coverage is duplicated by the "Current Digest of the Soviet Press;" 3) the longer items which are translated are more reasonably done in Washington with respect to time; and 4) the Russians are turning out a Soviet Digest in English.

4. Agenda for the next meeting would be the continuation of the Free World. The meeting adjourned at 1530 hours. The next meeting will be held 1 June 1956 at 1400 hours in Room 2125 M Bldg.

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[REDACTED]  
/Secretary

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